sion of AIR network in the country; if so, whether this will be both in terms of quantity and quality?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Yes, Sir.

Steps to remove unemployment

1801. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in the number of educated unemployed persons in the country, and if so, State-wise break up as on 31st October, 1988;

(b) whether any new steps, has been taken by Government to remove unemployment from the country; and

(c) funds, if any, allocated for this purpose by Government?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (c) According to the Seventh Plan Document, unemployment among the educated manpower (which includes matriculates, graduates and above) was estimated to be 3.7 million as at the beginning of 1985. No further information is available. The policies and programmes/schemes on employment generation are also given in the same docuation is available. The policies and progrstage.

Storage of edible oils

1802. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that edible oils are not being stored in the country in the warehouses;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to store imported and indigenous edible oils to meet the demands of deficit States; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Trading Corporation has been keeping about 2 lakh tonnes of imported edible oils physically available at all times for the Public Distribution System. This is a buffer stock besides oils in the pipeline which arrive at regular intervals. These stocks of oils are kept at various Depots of the STC throughout the country.

Loss of foodgrains due to heavy rains/floods

1803. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains damaged due to heavy rains/floods for want of proper storage or otherwise during the period from 1st January to 31st October, 1988;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains damaged/lost in transit during the same period alongwith value thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to minimise such losses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India, the main public agency handling Government stocks, finalizes its accounts for damages/losses annually. However, according to provisional figures, 21,000 tones of foodgrains got damaged with FCI during the period from January, 1988 to September, 1988 during storage, transportation and multiple handling due to factors beyond human control such as rains, floods, cyclones, etc.

(c) The steps taken to minimise losses/damages consist of storage of foodgrains in damp proof and rodent proof godowns